

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a plurality of devices of different device types connected to a host system, comprising:

receiving, by an input/output processor (IOP) on a network server system, a device request from a network server operating system;

invoking a device driver of the network server system to handle the device request; the device driver being configured to operate as a single, integrated device driver to support the different device types of the plurality of devices;

determining, by the device driver of the network server system, a particular device type of the different device types to which one of the plurality of devices is the device request is directed;

creating a host system request for the particular device type ~~one of the plurality of devices;~~ and

sending the host system request to an [[IOP]] input/output processor of the host system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the IOP on the network server system includes [[a]] the device driver for receiving the device request and determining the particular device type to which one of the plurality of devices is the device request is directed.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the device request is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) request directed to a storage device connected to a SCSI bus of the host system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of devices include ~~one or more~~ different types of storage devices selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the device driver is a SCSI MINIPORT configured to create host system requests for each type of storage device devices connected to the host system.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
executing the host system request on ~~[[the]]~~ one or more storage devices of the particular device type.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the device request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on one or more storage devices of the particular device type.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
executing the host system request on a virtual storage space defined on the one or more storage devices.

10. (Currently Amended) A medium containing program code that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a plurality of devices of different device types connected to a host system comprising:

receiving, by an input/output processor (IOP) on the computer, a device request from a computer operating system;

invoking a device driver of the computer to handle the device request; the device driver being configured to operate as a single, integrated device driver to support the different device types of the plurality of devices;

determining, by the device driver of the computer, a particular device type of the different device types to which ~~one of the plurality of devices connected to the host system~~ is the device request is directed;

creating a host system request for the particular device type ~~one of the plurality of devices~~; and

sending the host system request to an ~~[[IOP]]~~ input/output processor of the host system.

11. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 10 wherein the IOP on the computer operating system includes ~~[[a]]~~ the device driver for receiving the device request and determining the particular device type to which ~~one of the plurality of devices~~ is the device request is directed.

12. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 10 wherein the device request is a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) request directed to a storage device connected to a SCSI bus of the host system.

13. (Original) The medium of claim 10 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

14. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 10 wherein the plurality of devices include ~~one or more~~ different types of storage devices selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

15. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 14 wherein the device driver is a SCSI MINIPORT configured to create host system requests for each type of storage device ~~devices~~ connected to the host system.

16. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

executing the host system request on the one or more storage devices of the particular device type.

17. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 14 wherein the device request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on [[the]] one or more storage devices of the particular device type.

18. (Original) The medium of claim 17 wherein the method further comprises:
executing the host system request on a virtual storage space defined on the one or more storage devices.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a plurality of Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) storage devices of different device types connected to a host server system, comprising:

sending a SCSI request from a network server operating system to an input/output processor (IOP) on the network server system, wherein the IOP on the network server system includes a device driver for receiving the SCSI request;

invoking the device driver to handle the device request; the device driver being configured to operate as a single, integrated device driver to support the different device types of the plurality of SCSI storage devices;

determining, utilizing the device driver, the particular SCSI storage device type of the different device types to which ~~one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices is the~~ SCSI request is directed;

creating a host server system request for ~~one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices~~ the particular SCSI storage device type; and

sending the host server system request to an [[IOP]] input/output processor of the host server system.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the plurality of SCSI storage devices is selected from the group consisting of a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive, and a tape drive.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the device driver is a SCSI MINIPORT configured to create host system requests for each type of SCSI storage device devices connected to the host system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the host system request is a direct memory access (DMA) request.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
executing the host system request on the one of the plurality of storage devices of the particular SCSI storage device type.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the SCSI request is directed to a virtual storage space defined on one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices of the particular SCSI storage device type.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
executing the host system request on the virtual storage space defined on one of the plurality of SCSI storage devices of the particular SCSI storage device type.